

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 243014

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. JAPAN: MIKI COMING OUT ON TOP

EMBASSY TOKYO REPORTS THAT PRIME MINISTER MIKI'S POSITION
HAS IMPROVED SUFFICIENTLY TO MAKE IT LIKELY THAT HE WILL
BOTH ACHIEVE HIS DIET OBJECTIVES AND LEAD THE LDP IN THE
NEXT GENERAL ELECTION. SEVERAL EVENTS HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO
THIS CHANGE:

--MIKI AGREED TO RAILWAY AND TELEPHONE PAY INCREASES,
THEREBY AVOIDING A NATIONWIDE STRIKE AND GAINING
SOCIALIST SUPPORT IN THE DIET.

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--THE SEPTEMBER 15 SHUFFLE OF LDP LEADERSHIP POSTS RESULTED IN MIKI MEN TAKING TWO OF THE TOP THREE POSITIONS, WITH THE THIRD HELD BY SOMEONE AT LEAST WILLING TO LISTEN.

--THE LDP RANK-AND-FILE DOES NOT FAVOR ANOTHER LEADERSHIP STRUGGLE SO CLOSE TO A GENERAL ELECTION.

--THE ANTI-MIKI FORCES ARE IN DISARRAY.

(CONFIDENTIAL) TOKYO 14590, 9/29.

2. UK: THE LABORITES' MIXED BAG

EMBASSY LONDON REPORTS THAT THE FIRST TWO DAYS OF THE LABOR PARTY CONFERENCE HAVE BEEN A MIXED SUCCESS FOR THE GOVERNMENT. THE CONFERENCE:

--DUTIFULLY ENDORSED THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (NEC) ON MOST ECONOMIC ISSUES;

--IN AN ACT OF REBELLION EMBARRASSING TO THE GOVERNMENT, REJECTED RECENT SPENDING CUTS AND SUPPORTED LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES WHICH REFUSED TO GO ALONG WITH THEM;

--OVERWHELMINGLY DEFEATED AN ANTI-GOVERNMENT ANTI-DEVOLUTION RESOLUTION CALLING FOR REFERENDUM; AND

--MOVED THE NEC ONE NOTCH TO THE LEFT, WHILE VOTING DOWN SEVERAL CANDIDATES SUPPORTED BY PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN FOR THE COMMITTEE. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)
LONDON 15447, 9/28 AND (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) LONDON 15531, 9/29.

3. G-77: NOTHING IN WRITING YET

EMBASSY MEXICO REPORTS THAT, ALTHOUGH THE G-77 CONFERENCE ON COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING NATIONS CONCLUDED A WEEK
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AGO, THE FINAL REPORT HAS YET TO BE RELEASED. POLITICAL DIVISIONS WITHIN THE G-77 DOMINATED THE CONFERENCE, CENTERING ON DISPUTES BETWEEN THE NAM MEMBERS AND THE NON-NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES. AMONG THE POINTS AT ISSUE:

--DEBATES ON THE BHUTTO PROPOSAL FOR A THIRD-WORLD SUMMIT AND THE MEXICAN PROPOSAL FOR A PERMANENT G-77 SECRETARIAT ENDED WITH NAM MEMBERS, OPPOSED TO BOTH,

CARRYING THE DAY.

--THERE WAS UNDERLYING TENSION BETWEEN OIL PRODUCERS
AND THE REST OF THE MEMBERSHIP.

--NON-SOCIALIST LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES SHOWED IN-
CREASING DISCOMFORT WITH THIRD-WORLD FORA.
(CONFIDENTIAL) MEXICO 12508, 9/29.

4. EC IN NO HURRY TO DEAL WITH GREEKS

US MISSION BRUSSELS REPORTS A POSSIBLE DELAY UNTIL EARLY
1977 IN THE COMMENCEMENT OF SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS ON
GREEK ACCESSION. THIS RESULTS FROM THE TIME-CONSUMING
PROCESS OF:

--COLLECTING DETAILED DATA ON THE GREEK ECONOMY; AND

--ANALYZING THE DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN COMMUNITY LAW
AND RELEVANT GREEK LAW.

MISSION COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE GREEKS ARE KEEPING THE
PRESSURE ON FOR EARLY AND RAPID NEGOTIATIONS, AN EC
OFFICIAL PREDICTS THE EC WILL MOVE VERY CAUTIOUSLY IN THE
GREEK NEGOTIATIONS, KNOWING THAT IMPORTANT PRECEDENTS
WILL BE SET FOR OTHER MEDITERRANEAN APPLICANTS.
(CONFIDENTIAL) BRUSSELS 9481, 9/28.

5. VENEZUELAN OIL PRICES UP

EMBASSY CARACAS CONFIRMS THAT EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, VENE-
ZUELA WILL INCREASE CRUDE OIL PRICES BY 25 TO 50 CENTS A
BARREL. AN OFFICIAL OF THE VENEZUELAN PETROLEUM CORPO-
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RATION TOLD THE EMBASSY THAT THE PRICING DECISION HAD BEEN
MADE STRICTLY WITHIN THE ORGANIZATION, ON THE BASIS OF
MARKET ASSESSMENTS.

EMBASSY COMMENT: SINCE LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES OF US
COMPANIES ARE COMPLAINING THAT THEY CANNOT GET ENOUGH OIL,
THE INCREASED CRUDE PRICES ARE UNLIKELY TO AFFECT SALES.
(LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) CARACAS 11617, 9/29.

6. KUWAIT JOINS CRITICISM OF ANTI-BOYCOTT LEGISLATION

THE KUWAITI PRESS SEPTEMBER 28 REPORTS THAT KUWAITI
FINANCE MINISTER ATEEQI SAID THAT KUWAIT "FULLY SUPPORTS
SAUDI ARABIAN REJECTION OF ANY US LEGISLATION" AGAINST THE
ARAB BOYCOTT. HE ADDED THAT KUWAIT WILL BE "RIGID" IN

ADHERING TO THE BOYCOTT AND WILL COMPLY WITH THE DECISIONS
OF THE ARAB LEAGUE'S BOYCOTT OFFICE.

EMBASSY KUWAIT COMMENT: WE NOTE THAT ATEEQI SEEMS TO
VISUALIZE A CASE-BY-CASE APPROACH BY THE BOYCOTT OFFICE
RATHER THAN A MORE SPECTACULAR ARAB REACTION TO THE
PROPOSED US ANTI-BOYCOTT LEGISLATION. (CONFIDENTIAL)
KUWAIT 4577, 9/29.

7. FINLAND: NEW GOVERNMENT, OLD HEAD

PRIME MINISTER MARTTI MIETTUNEN, NAMED ON SEPTEMBER 27 TO
FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT, HAS ANNOUNCED HIS NEW THREE-PARTY,
16-MEMBER CABINET. THE MINORITY COALITION, CONSISTING OF
THE CENTER PARTY, THE SWEDISH PEOPLE'S PARTY, THE LIBERAL
PEOPLE'S PARTY AND ONE INDEPENDENT, IS THE FIRST SINCE
1966 TO CONTAIN NO SOCIALISTS OR COMMUNISTS. (UNCLASSI-
FIED) HELSINKI 2060, 9/29. ROBINSON

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